Labourers' Home Enfranchisement (Ireland) Bill.

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES.

Clause.

1. Ascertainment of price and temporary condition.
2. Issue of schedule, notices and forms of agreement to purchase.
3. Distribution of notices and forms and return of the latter.
4. Completion of purchase and issue of vesting order.
5. Registration free of cost.
6. Transfer of liability and commencement of new relations.
7. Discretionary postponement of commencement of payments.
8. Provision against partition and alienation.
9. Removal of disability imposed by 6 Edw. 7. c. 37. s. 19.
10. Similar option to be offered in subsequent years.
11. Short title.
12. Commencement of Act.

Pnnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

A

B I L L

TO

Transfer to the Irish Land Commission the debts and powers of collection of District Councils in Ireland under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, and to enable labourers to purchase their cottages and plots. A.D. 1913.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

Ascertainment of price and temporary condition.

5 **1.** The Local Government Board for Ireland shall cause an account to be taken, as from the thirtieth day of September nineteen hundred and thirteen, of all sums for which district councils in Ireland shall then stand liable in respect of labourers' cottages and plots provided under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts 10 at that time occupied bona fide in accordance with those Acts and the current rents of which are duly paid; and, after making all deductions to which each district council would be entitled under the Labourers Acts in respect of the same, ascertain the net balance due in respect of each cottage and plot. *One 15 half of this net balance shall be the price of the cottage and plot, and shall be ultimately assumed and dealt with by the Irish Land Commission as the amount of an advance under the Land Purchase Acts, to be repaid by the occupant of the cottage and plot for the time being in the same manner and with the same 20 interest as advances are or may be repayable under those Acts. During the time, if any, that may elapse before Parliament has provided for the discharge of the other half of the net balance, the Irish Land Commission shall, on the provisions of this Act being complied with, and as from the date of the signature of the 25 purchase agreement hereinafter mentioned, assume liability for the*

3 Edw. 7. c. 37

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

A.D. 1913.

current interest on the whole net balance, which interest shall be payable to and recoverable by the Commission as interest in lieu of rent under section eighteen of the Irish Land Act, 1903.

Issue of schedule, notices and forms of agreement to purchase.

2. The Local Government Board for Ireland shall furnish each district council with a schedule of all the labourers' homes in its district provided under the Labourers Acts and their respective prices so ascertained, together with copies of a notice to be served on all the occupants thereof, and suitable forms of agreement to purchase. The notice shall inform each occupant of his right, at his option, to continue as a tenant to the district council, or to become a purchaser of his cottage and plot at the price specified in the schedule, repayable by half-yearly instalments or larger sums, subject to the provisions of the Land Purchase Acts, and of this Act, including the provision to maintain the cottage in a safe and wholesome condition to the satisfaction of the Local Government Board; but not subject to either succession duty or stamp duty in case of devolution to a normal representative satisfying the requirements of the Labourers Acts and of this Act.

Distribution of notices and forms and return of the latter.

3. Each district council shall, immediately on receipt of the schedule, notices and forms, cause a notice and form to be served upon each scheduled occupant; and shall afterwards collect all the forms of purchase agreement executed by occupants and return them to the Local Government Board within one month from the date of the receipt of them by the council.

Completion of purchase and issue of vesting order.

4. On receipt and verification of the purchase agreements thus executed, the Local Government Board shall transmit all of them that are in order, with a schedule of them, to the Irish Land Commission, who, if Parliament has already discharged half the net balance, shall forthwith issue a vesting order to every such occupant as a purchaser subject to the specified price to be repaid by annuities as advances under the Land Purchase Acts are or may be repayable for the time being, and subject to this Act.

Registration free of cost.

54 & 55 Vict. c. 66.

5. Contemporaneously with the issue of each vesting order, the Land Commission shall cause a copy of that order to be registered under the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891; and the title so acquired by the occupying purchaser shall be registered forthwith free of cost and free of stamp duty.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

A.D. 1913.

Transfer of liability and commencement of new relations.

6. *Thereupon all undischarged financial liability in respect of the cottage and plot so dealt with shall pass from the district council and attach to the Irish Land Commission, and the total debt of the council shall be reduced to that extent; the relations between the council and the occupant in respect of the same shall cease, and the occupant shall be a purchaser at the specified price repayable by annuities or by larger sums as in the case of other purchasers under the Land Purchase Acts, subject to the provisions of those Acts and of this Act.*

Discretionary postponement of commencement of payments.

7. The Irish Land Commission may, on the application of the purchaser, if satisfied with his personal or other security, postpone the commencement of the payment of annuities for twelve months after the completion of the purchase and until the next succeeding gale day after the expiration of those twelve months, and then and on each subsequent gale day demand only a half-yearly instalment.

Provision against partition and alienation.

8. A labourer's cottage and the plot appurtenant thereto so dealt with shall be inseparable as regards occupation and ownership, except with the consent of the Irish Land Commission, and shall be inalienable jointly or separately except to an agricultural labourer as defined by the Labourers (Ireland) Acts.

Removal of disability imposed by 6 Edw. 7, c. 37, s. 19.

9. The words from "that" to "and," inclusive, in the proviso to section nineteen of the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1906 (precluding labourers from acquiring parcels of untenanted land), shall not apply to purchasers under this Act.

Similar option to be offered in subsequent years.

10. The Local Government Board for Ireland shall cause a similar account to be taken as from the thirtieth day of September in each year, and the same schedule, notices and forms shall be supplied and the same proceedings taken in respect of cottages and plots completed and occupied bona fide at that date in each year; and each occupant shall be given an option of continuing as tenant to the district council or becoming a purchaser of his cottage and plot at the price ascertained and specified in the schedule as in this Act provided; and in the case of all occupants who execute the forms of agreement to purchase the purchases shall be completed and the same consequences shall follow in all respects as in the cases dealt with this year.

Short title.

11. This Act may be cited as the Labourers' Home Enfranchisement (Ireland) Act, 1913.

Commencement of Act.

12. This Act shall come into operation on the passing thereof.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Labourers' Home Enfranchisement (Ireland).

A

BILL

To transfer to the Irish Land Commission the debts and powers of collection of District Councils in Ireland under the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, and to enable labourers to purchase their cottages and plots.

Presented by Mr. Gunnell.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,* 13 *March* 1913.

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from
WYMAN and SONS, LTD., Fetter Lane, E.C., and
32, Abingdon Street, S.W.; or
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE (Scottish Branch),
23, Forth Street, Edinburgh; or
E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, Grafton Street, Dublin.

Printed by EYRE and SPOTTISWOODE, LTD.,
EAST HARDING STREET, E.C.,
PRINTERS TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

[*Price* 1*d.*]

[Bill 2]

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit